

Workingmen's Houses,

Frank Theno House
809 Dodge Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-BB

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-BB-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

Frank Theno House

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HABS No. 1A-159-BB

Site Location: 809 Dodge Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 3.22
Cadastral grid : NW1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691600.4706800
Lot dimensions : 50'x 165': .19 acre
Lot description: Lot 2 of Lot 1 and East 10'
of Lot 2, of East 130' of
Lot 1 of Lot 1 of Lot 1 of
City Lot 725

Present Owner: Andrew H. and Evelyn Josephine Fuerst
Present Usage: single family residence
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: 29'x 28'; two stories.

Orientation : southeast

Architectural Description : Plan type : Tee-shape, with infill corner porches; two stories.

Foundation: poured-in-place concrete perimeter walls.

Structure : wood frame

Ext. walls: painted beveled wood siding with plain corner boards on walls and gables.

Roofs : moderately pitched front gable, with similarly pitched cross gables over side extensions, all with pedimented returns; shallowly pitched hip roofs over corner porches; asphalt shingles or roll roofing throughout.

Chimneys : chimney truncated below roofline.

Dormers : none

Windows : painted wood 1/1 double-hung throughout, placed singly or used to flank 1/1 cottage windows on front; plain casings, hood molds and slip sills

Openings : single-leaf front entrance with narrow transom centered under front corner porch; rear doorway centered on rear corner porch; plain casements and sills.

Porches : single-story, open front porch in east corner; enclosed rear porch in north corner.

Details : boxed and molded cornices on main roofs and pediments; tapered Ionic columns over stone-pattern concrete block pedestals on front corner porch; diamond-pattern leaded glass upper panes of front cottage windows.

Construction Date : 1914

Architecture Style: Gable ended box

Physical History : The south side of Dodge Street was subdivided into residential lots and developed in the 1870s and 1880s. The north side of the street, however, was occupied largely by the extensive lumber mill and storage yards of the Peter J. Seippel Lumber Company. Residential development was thus retarded for some thirty years until Seippel went out of business in the early 1910s. In 1914 prolific Dubuque residential contractor Chris Voelker erected two very similar two-story frame houses for speculative sale on the former site of Seippel's lumber yard. Costing \$3800, this house was slightly larger and more embellished than the other [HABS No. IA-159-BE], built immediately west. Frank Theno was the first occupant of the house, living here only briefly before it was acquired by Frank Voellinger [Vollinger]. An employee for the Illinois Central Railroad, Voellinger in turn lived here for only a short time. After a series of short-term tenants in the 1920s and 1930s, Andrew Fuerst purchased the property around 1941. It has remained in the Fuerst family since. Although the house retains its original form, it has undergone several alterations, including resheathing the roof with asphalt shingles and residing the exterior walls with aluminum (involving removal of front gable window) in 1979.

Significance: "Probably the most extensive [residential] building has taken place in the lower end of the city, in the vicinity of South Dodge Street and Seippel's lumber yards," the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald* reported in 1914. "This for a good many years has been covered with old lumber and used as a dumping ground. Now the site has been cleared of debris and handsome homes have sprung up, through the efforts of C.A. Voelker and other builders." Built in 1914, the Frank Theno House is one of the most recent of the workingmen's houses built along lower Dodge Street. Its pedimented gables, somewhat more complex roof profile and classically detailed corner entrance distinguish the building as a later, more sophisticated and extremely well preserved manifestation of the front gabled boxes built on the street between 1870 and 1920. The house's speculative origin is reflected in its patternbook configuration and detailing.

References: - Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1909, 1972.
Dubuque City Directories: 1899 - 1970.
Dubuque City Building Permit Records: 821 Dodge Street.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-15-1-8.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Dubuque Telegraph-Herald: 27 December 1914.

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